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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DRUG COURIER SENTENCED

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that HECTOR HUGO BARRIOS, 41, Glendale, Arizona, was sentenced to 120 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. This case was the result of a year long investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Evansville Police Department, Gibson County Sheriff's Department, Vincennes Police Department, and Daviess County Sheriff's Department that resulted in the arrest and conviction of fifteen other individuals.

The investigation largely involved wiretaps conducted over a cellular telephone used by Brian Davis. Brian Davis and his cousin, Jerome Davis, were the local managers for a methamphetamine distribution organization that operated in southwestern Indiana from mid-

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1999 through November 28, 2001. The organization's kingpin, Wilfredo Barrios, was convicted by a jury in Evansville on March 12, 2003 for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise. During the wire surveillance, DEA seized forty pounds of methamphetamine, with a street value of over \$1.8 million. Trial testimony established that the organization distributed approximately 1,660 pounds of methamphetamine, with a street value of over \$73 million, during its two years of operation. Hector Barrios was a drug courier for the organization from June, 2000 until October 25, 2002. Barrios transported methamphetamine from California to Indianapolis, Indiana and Nashville, Tennessee via commercial airlines on approximately ten occasions. Associates of Brian Davis and Jerome Davis then transported the methamphetamine to the Evansville area. Wilfredo Barrios will be sentenced on July 15, 2003.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Young also imposed five years supervised release following BARRIOS' release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, BARRIOS must submit to random searches of his person and residence.

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